
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE....

A Column on Consumer Issues

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Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division

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KEEPING YOUR CAR IN TUNE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Spring is the perfect time of year for you to get in tune with the environment. Research shows that if you take care of your vehicle, it will run better and last longer – up to 50% longer.

Here are some tips from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) to help keep your car in tip-top running condition.

- Keep your engine tuned up. A misfiring spark plug can reduce fuel efficiency as much as 30%. Follow the service schedule listed in your owner's manual. You'll help reduce air pollution too.
- Replace filters and fluids as recommended for efficient engine performance.
- Check your tires. Tires that are properly inflated and in alignment save gas. Your tires will last longer, which means fewer discards at the landfill.
- Properly dispose of used motor oil, antifreeze/coolant, tires and old batteries. Never dump fluids on the ground or in open streams. Contact your local government for recycling sites.
- If you are not a do-it-yourselfer, find a good technician. Ask around for recommendations.
- Keep your air conditioner in top condition and have it serviced only by a technician certified as competent to handle/recycle refrigerants.
- Avoid sudden accelerations and jerky stops. Use cruise control on open highways to keep your speed steady.
- Remove excess items from your vehicle. Less weight means better mileage.
- Plan trips. Consolidate daily errands to eliminate unnecessary driving.

Besides helping the environment, a properly maintained and operated vehicle will run more efficiently, will be safer, and will last longer.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division investigates allegations of fraud in the marketplace. Investigators also mediate individual complaints against businesses. If you have a consumer problem or question, call the Consumer Protection Division at 328-3404, toll-free at 1-800-472-2600, or 1-800-366-6888 (w/TTY). This article and other consumer information is located on our website at www.ag.state.nd.us.

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